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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/682,432	10/10/2003	Gary Tepper	02940179BA	2121
30743	7590	10/05/2007		
WHITHAM, CURTIS & CHRISTOFFERSON & COOK, P.C. 11491 SUNSET HILLS ROAD SUITE 340 RESTON, VA 20190			EXAMINER VENC1, DAVID J	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			1641	
			MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
			10/05/2007	PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/682,432

Applicant(s)

TEPPER ET AL.

Examiner

David J. Venci

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 1 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on August 24, 2007.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 43-60 and 62-70 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☒ Claim(s) 43-60 and 62-70 are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

Election/Restrictions

Restriction to one of the following inventions is required under 35 U.S.C. 121:

- I. Claims 43-45, drawn to a product comprising, *inter alia*, chemical functional groups, classified in class 264/435, for example.
- II. Claims 46-50, drawn to a device comprising, *inter alia*, a polymer-adhered surface, classified in class 210/321.6, for example.
- III. Claims 51 and 52, drawn to a device comprising, *inter alia*, polymer-adhered porous surfaces, classified in class 210/263, for example.
- IV. Claims 53-60, drawn to a composition comprising, *inter alia*, selectively releasable agents, classified in class 530/413, for example.
- V. Claims 62-65, drawn to composition subcombinations comprising, *inter alia*, solid-state reactive particles, classified in class 429/45, for example.
- VI. Claims 66-70, drawn to a device combination comprising, *inter alia*, a monomer-coated substrate, classified in class 118/715, for example.

The inventions are distinct, each from the other because of the following reasons:

Inventions I, II, III, IV and V are unrelated¹ to each other because they each have different designs. For example, Invention I requires chemical functional groups, which are not required in the other remaining groups. Invention II requires a polymer-adhered surface, which is not required in the other remaining groups. Invention III requires polymer-adhered porous surfaces, which are not required in the other remaining groups. Invention IV requires selectively releasable agents, which are not required in the other remaining groups. And, Invention V requires solid-state reactive particles, which are not required in the other remaining groups.

Invention VI is unrelated to Inventions I, II, III and IV. For example, Invention VI requires a monomer-coated substrate, which is not required in the other remaining groups.

¹ Inventions are unrelated if it can be shown that they are not disclosed as capable of use together and they have different designs, modes of operation, and effects (MPEP § 802.01 and § 806.06).

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Inventions V and VI are related as subcombination and combination^{2,3}, respectively, and are distinct from each other because the substrate of Invention VI has separate patentable utility in a coating apparatus, while the solid-state reactive particles of Invention V have separate patentable utility in pharmaceuticals.

Examination burden is established because the scope of prior art search required for each Invention does not appear coextensive. For example, a search for the chemical functional groups of Invention I does not require a search for the polymer-adhered surface of Invention II, which in turn do not require a search for the polymer-adhered porous surfaces of Invention III, which in turn do not require a search for the selectively releasable agents of Invention IV, which in turn do not require a search for the solid-state reactive particles of Invention V, which in turn do not require a search for the monomer-coated substrate of Invention VI.

Because these inventions are independent or distinct for the reasons given above and there would be a serious burden on the examiner if restriction is not required because the inventions require a different field of search (see MPEP § 808.02), restriction for examination purposes as indicated is proper.

Applicants are advised that a complete reply to this requirement must include: (i) an election of a species or invention to be examined even if the requirement is traversed⁴ (37 CFR 1.143), and (ii) identification of

² Inventions in this relationship are distinct if it can be shown that (1) the combination as claimed does not require the particulars of the subcombination as claimed for patentability, and (2) that the subcombination has utility by itself or in other combinations (MPEP § 806.05(c)).

³ Examiner requires restriction between combination and subcombination inventions. Where applicant elects a subcombination, and claims thereto are subsequently found allowable, any claim(s) depending from or otherwise requiring all the limitations of the allowable subcombination will be examined for patentability in accordance with 37 CFR 1.104. See MPEP § 821.04(a). Applicant is advised that if any claim presented in a continuation or divisional application is anticipated by, or includes all the limitations of, a claim that is allowable in the present application, such claim may be subject to provisional statutory and/or nonstatutory double patenting rejections over the claims of the instant application.

⁴ Applicant may elect an invention or species with traverse or without traverse. To reserve a right to petition, Applicant must elect with traverse. Should Applicant traverse on the ground that the inventions or species are not patentably distinct, Applicant should clearly admit on the record, or submit or identify evidence on the record that the inventions or species are obvious variants. If Examiner finds one Inventions unpatentable over the prior art, Examiner may use the evidence or admission of record to reject other inventions under 35 U.S.C.103(a).

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the claims encompassing the elected invention. An argument that claims are allowable or that all claims are generic is considered non-responsive unless accompanied by an election.


Applicants are reminded that upon the cancellation of claims to a non-elected invention, the inventorship must be amended in compliance with 37 CFR 1.48(b) if one or more of the currently named inventors is no longer an inventor of at least one claim remaining in the application. Any amendment of inventorship must be accompanied by a request under 37 CFR 1.48(b) and by the fee required under 37 CFR 1.17(i).

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to David J. Venci whose telephone number is 571-272-2879. The examiner can normally be reached on 08:00 - 16:30 (EST). If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Long Le can be reached on 571-272-0823. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

David J Venci
Assistant Examiner
Art Unit 1641

djv


LONG V. LE 09/30/07
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